

Message Text

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64

ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EA-11 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10

L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-15 USIA-15

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R 071339Z SEP 73

FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1795

ONFO RUFHMU/AMCONSUL MUNICH 1726

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR PINT UR

SUBJ: UNUSUAL BREZHNEV STATEMENT ON FOREIGN POLICY

1. CENTRAL PRESS SEPTEMBER 7 FRONTPAGES STATEMENT SIGNED BY BREZHNEV, ENTITLED "HEARTFELT GRATITUDE," WHICH EXPRESSES THANKS FOR LETTERS FROM SOVIET CITIZENS AND "FROM ALL CONTINENTS" PRAISING AND APPROVING SOVIET COURSE IN FOREIGN AFFAIRS. NOTING "MANY FRIENDLY WORDS" ADDRESSED TO HIM PERSONALLY, BREZHNEV EMPHASIZES THAT SUCCESS OF SOVIET POLICIES IS "FRUIT OF ACTIVITIES OF OUR WHOLE PARTY AND RESULT OF HEROIC WORK AND STRUGGLE OF OUR ENTIRE PEOPLE." BREZHNEV CITES AS SOURCE OF STRENGTH OF SOVIET FOREIGN POLICY GOALS THEIR "COMPLETE CONFORMITY" TO INTERESTS OF PEOPLE AND CORRESPONDING "UNIDIVIDED SUPPORT" OF PEOPLE FOR ACTIONS TAKEN.

2. BREZHNEV CLAIMS GROWING SUPPORT AMONG "PEACELOVING" PEOPLES OF OTHER COUNTRIES AND POINTS TO THIS AS "ONE MORE PROOF" OF CORRECTNESS OF SOVIET FOREIGN POLICY. HE ENDS STATEMENT BY PROMISING, IN NAME OF CENTRAL COMMITTEE AND POLITBURO, TO CONTINUE COURSE SET BY PARTY TOWARD "DEFENSE AND STRENGTHENING" OF PEACE.

3. STATEMENT SOMEWHAT UNUSUAL IN THAT IT NOT KEYED TO ANY PARTICULAR EVENT. MAY MERELY BE DESIGNED AS REMINDER OF BREZHNEV'S ROLE AS MAIN FORMULATOR OF FOREIGN POLICY AT TIME WHEN THERE IS LITTLE
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ACTIVITY TO KEEP HIM ON THE FRONT PAGE. ON OTHER HAND, FACT THAT

BREZHNEV FELT IT NECESSARY SOMEWHAT GRATUITOUSLY TO PUBLISH AN "AW SHUCKS" LETTER TO BOOST HIS FOREIGN POLICY RAISES QUESTION WHETHER THERE MAY BE SOME SUBSTANCE TO PERSISTENT ALLEGATIONS OF CHINESE DIPLOMATS IN MOSCOW THAT BREZHNEV AND HIS POLICIES ARE IN TROUBLE. EMBASSY, HOWEVER, INCLINED TO VIEW IT MERELY AS REASSERTION OF DETERMINATION TO PURSUE ESTABLISHED FOREIGN POLICY GOALS DESPITE DIFFICULTIES (SUCH AS FOREIGN CRITICISM OVER HANDLING OF DISSIDENTS) AND AS INDICATION OF BROAD PUBLIC SUPPORT FOR THESE GOALS.

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Message Attributes

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Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
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Disposition Authority: collinp0
Disposition Case Number: n/a
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Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
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Disposition Remarks:
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30 JUN 2005

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